

# The Times-Dispatch

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1908.

## Campaign Contributions

The Times-Dispatch will receive, acknowledge and forward to the treasurer of the National Democratic Campaign Committee all amounts sent it for this purpose.

## "PERNICIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITY."

President Roosevelt has removed Lincoln Avery and Charles A. Bailey, prominent officeholders under the government in Michigan, for "pernicious political activity." Circumstances preclude the attachment of any such penalty to President Roosevelt for similar activity.

Messrs. Avery and Bailey, it appears, used their position to influence politically the force of classified clerks under them, and to stimulate campaign contributions from them. Demeanor of this sort is undoubtedly pernicious. It is flatly forbidden by the rules of the civil service, and the gentlemen fully deserve their punishment.

Yet what must they think of the judge who ejects them with such virulent wrath? He, too, holds a position under the government, controlling an army of subordinates far outnumbering theirs, and he has used his position with far greater skill and boldness to accomplish political influence for himself. He has, so far as known, employed no threat; but he has not scrupled to exploit his great office for political advantage, and throw the immense weight of it behind the astounding insinuation that all those who fail to vote according to his thinking forfeit their title to good citizenship.

Messrs. Avery and Bailey are justly dismissed for the infraction of plain rules. There are no rules governing the political and partisan behavior of the President of the United States, none having been thought necessary hitherto. Consequently, he suffers no punishment, other than that which comes to sensitive men from the loss of public esteem. Yet, compared to the quiet pool of the Michigan customs house, the pernicious political activity of Theodore Roosevelt is like a howling hurricane.

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE DOES WELL.

The Finance Committee is to be congratulated upon its attitude as to Lester Street. As The Times-Dispatch pointed out on Friday, with \$1,000,000 of bonds yet unsold, it was natural for the Finance Committee to be chary in creating further obligations, no matter for what purpose, especially as in the case of the proposed dock improvements there did not appear to be an immediate necessity for such a step. Prudence is commendable, and all cities would be better off as a general proposition if more parsimony was shown in the disbursement of public money. But in this case, upon further consideration, the Finance Committee reached the absolutely sound position that the preservation of Richmond's waterways and the maintenance of communication at all times between Richmond and Fulton were matters of urgent and immediate importance.

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link, and with James River clogged up Richmond would at once lose the principal cause of its strong position as a jobbing center. Its strong freight rates to be placed on an inland basis, it would cost this city millions of dollars annually, and such a calamity is absolutely sure to occur if the James River is not kept open.

Again, an open river would be of no service without docks, and the action of the Finance Committee in preparing for both contingencies is the wisest possible course that can be taken if the credit of this city is to be maintained. It is true that times are not propitious for selling bonds, but the times are growing better, and a city with Richmond's waterways to the sea can always command a better price for its bonds than a city without the enormous advantage of water rates.

Now let the Council and the city prepare for the improvement of the James River on a comprehensive and enduring plan.

## THE AUTOMOBILE NUISANCE.

London and Paris forbid the use of the streets to smoking and odoriferous motor-cars. This is one respect in which the two great European capitals are a lap ahead of any American city. Americans continue to permit their eyes and nostrils to be offended for the indulgence of motorists who are unable or unwilling to equip themselves acceptably.

Small and smoke are not necessary by-products of the automobile. Properly made and properly tended machines give out neither. Hence those machines which offer both stand convicted of structural or acquired deficiencies. In either case the owner is at fault. Ignorant or indifferent, he whizzes along his way, leaving behind a trail of effluvia which render him offensive to his fellow-citizens. Is there any good reason why he should be permitted to take his pleasure at the expense of everybody else?

The city limits the speed of automobiles.

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## Borrowed Jingles

A LIE!  
(Evidence of the lack of strong drink is alleged to have been discovered in the Colony Club.)

Has lovely woman stooped to folly?  
By looking on the dry vermouth.  
And tossing of the highball? Golly!  
Can this amazing feat be true?  
To think her daily fingers ladle  
Long, cold, insubstantial  
And that the hand that rocks the cradle  
Can hold the cocktail to the lips!

Most it be with that little brother,  
With angelic-corrugated brow,  
Waits forth at dawn: "Oh, Mother! Mother!  
Come home with me to Father now!  
Leave these intoxicating people  
And mingle in our midst once more!  
Hark! where the clock in yonder steeple  
Now strikes ten minutes after four!"

If Mrs. C. is happy under  
Discussion, must men say they think  
That she is a woman of a word?  
In business if she didn't drink?  
When Mrs. Z. about the city  
Is a professor of a daily thing,  
Will men exclaim in heated pity,  
"Her husband leads a life of pain!"

Fish tush! This false Mere fabrication!  
Let not such thought our passions vex.  
The horrors of intoxication  
Have never been so healthful seen.  
Men fear no deed, however risky,  
In answering a woman's call.  
We'll save them from gin, rum and  
Whiskey!

Aye! If we have to drink it all!  
—James J. Montague, in New York American.

## MERELY JOKING.

Ne. Panster.  
The Boston boy baby contemptuously  
Rejected the alphabet blocks that some mis-  
guided Western relative had sent him as  
a present.

"Of all the intellectual diversions,"  
he exclaimed, "playing on words is absolutely  
and unquestionably the most trivial!"  
—Chicago Tribune.

His Explanation.  
Mrs. Knicker heard you talking in  
your sleep about setting them up again.  
Knicker—Yes, my dear; that is a mili-  
tary exercise.—New York Sun.

The Ladies' Way.  
"This shoe fits you perfectly," said the  
clerk.  
"Then show me something half a size  
smaller," replied the lady.—Houston Post.

The Thoughtful Burglar.  
Judge—You say you went into the room  
at night quite unintentionally? Why, then,  
had you taken off your shoes?  
—Chicago News.

Pa, what is tellanous?  
"Oh, he was a Roman Senator or some-  
thing—I forget just what. Now, don't  
bother me any more, suggesting that I  
read about the effect of Jim Hill's seventh  
birthday on the Wall Street market."  
—Chicago Record-Herald.

Couldn't Afford It.  
"Mr. Huggard caught me in the dark  
last evening and kissed me," said Miss  
Fassett, a young lady, suggesting that  
she read about the effect of Jim Hill's seventh  
birthday on the Wall Street market."  
—Chicago Record-Herald.

THE WATCHFUL SHORTLIERS.  
A DAM BEDE'S wife's name is Eve, and  
the "Paraphernalia" Union is hereby  
advised that the said Eve, a young lady,  
gentleman from Minnesota will raise no  
Cain in Washington this year.—New York  
Mail.

When you find that your neighbor has  
disappeared, look for him last year.  
Candidates, be sure that he is training  
for office two years hence, and already  
hates the octopus.—Houston Post.

This is a great campaign for novelties.  
The phonograph has been adopted as a  
medium of conveying the sentiments of  
candidates; and now the stump letter  
has been developed, and the Cabinet  
conferred into an outcropping committee.  
—Indianapolis News.

Mr. Harriman observes, "the money panic  
left us with only a scratch." For a year  
there didn't look as if we should be  
left with even that.—Detroit Journal.

The last magazine article about John  
D. Rockefeller says fine things of the  
Standard Oil Company. You see, John  
didn't hit himself.—Atlantic Constitution.

There is a good deal of smoke, even if  
there hasn't been any actual firing of Mr.  
Hitchcock yet.—Washington Herald.

The Pittsburgh Post says the President's  
disposition toward the arena was  
sought and unnecessary and unworthy.  
Barring these trifling objections, however, the Post  
man has serious complaint to file.—Washington  
Herald.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.  
New Orleans covers 50 per cent. more  
territory than Philadelphia.

A London company lost 110,000,000  
pounds last year.

The receipts from liquor taxes in En-  
gland and Wales last year were \$13,318,340.

The United States is the largest im-  
porter of Panama hats, taking \$600,901  
worth last year.

Experiments with new machinery on  
the Chilean nitrate fields are expected to  
cut the cost of production in half.

When the body of a starving animal, in-  
cluding man, is subjected to the action of  
starvation, the inevitable result is death.

Mexico is now making her own steel rails.  
Monterrey mill having recently filled a  
government contract for 100,000 tons.

A patent has been granted on a go-cart  
the wheels of which are interchangeable  
for runners for use on snow or ice.

A runner has been granted on a hammer  
handle released in a patent suit, and  
with a clamp on the end to prevent its  
loss.

Because of accidents in various navies,  
the British Admiralty has published  
warships' magazines with refrigerating ap-  
paratus.

In La Plata, of Buenos Ayres, the only  
ocean liner is the only one of the kind.  
July 15th was one 25 inches deep about a  
pint medicine.

Experiments made in compressed air by  
English naval divers demonstrated that  
divers can work at least 21 feet under  
water without danger of death from the  
pressure.

Astronomers of note are inclined to the  
theory that the eighth satellite of Jupiter,  
discovered last winter, is the missing  
Telescop comet, last seen in 1779 close to  
the planet.

Patents have been granted in Germany  
and the United States for a machine that  
makes glass telegraph poles, which are  
being extensively used in various sections  
of Europe, where wood is scarce.

According to a French expert, in the  
water-courses of Europe there are 500,000  
cubic meters of water, valued at \$100,000,000  
for Italy, \$50,000,000 for Norway, \$75,000,000  
for Sweden and \$50,000,000 for Germany.

THE MODERN DIPLOMAT.  
The present tendency in international  
affairs is away from war and toward  
the settlement of disputes by reason.

The warfare of the people of the earth  
demands that this tendency be en-  
couraged, not retarded. The wise  
choice of national representatives  
abroad does much to encourage friend-  
ly relations and make resort to the  
barbarities of war more and more im-  
probable. Strategically, the people of the  
earth are being brought into a closer  
like that of President Roosevelt in  
connection with the treaty of Port-  
smouth, according to the Russian writer,  
Who's work has just been published  
promotes perfect understanding be-  
tween nations. The United States has  
sent some strong men to the foreign  
embassies in recent years, whose ser-  
vices to their country cannot be ap-  
preciated until their careers are closed  
and their names are passed into history.  
Von Sternburg was a type of the best repre-  
sentatives that foreign nations have sent  
to Washington. It is a pity that he  
should have been chosen for his suc-  
cessor will be as happy.—Cleveland Plain  
Dealer.

## The Courts of Europe

By  
La Marquise de Fontenay

Lord Stanhope, who is now in  
this country, having arrived in  
London, has been met by the  
Marquise de Fontenay, who is now  
in London, and on his return to  
France, there was a good deal of dis-  
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concerning the restoration of the  
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